[XXXVth YEAR.] THE [No. 1734.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1780.

To the PEOPLE of MARYLAND.

NUMBER II.

THE influence of the crown of Great Britain, in the house of commons, and the corruption of that body, arises from its extensive duration; the forms only of the constitution preserved, and, under their sanctions, the may exercise an absolute power.

Whenever the legislature becomes corrupt, is an end of the liberty and safety of the ple. It is therefore necessary, by every rea- able precaution, to guard its integrity.

would be ridiculous to apprehend a corrup- of the house of delegates, as there exists not ingle temptation to pervert them. The go- nor and the council are annually elected; have no separate interests to secure, and, if had, they have no lucrative posts at their osal, which would come up to the price of leading member of the assembly, who might inclined to barter his fame and his honesty. therefore, we can rely on the integrity and gment of our representatives, when we elect , there would be no necessity, on this ac- nt, to limit their duration. We must recur another principle. In the course of a long m, they might possibly forget that their power not inherent, but derived from the people, ose trustees they are, and to whom they are countable for their conduct. It is this consi- ration alone, which justifies the policy of fre- ent elections; but the expence and trouble of ctions, and the violent heats and animosities ich are frequently the consequence, will be nd to overbalance the supposed advantage of ving them annually.

The only plausible argument in favour of nual elections, is this: when a delegate has trayed his trust, or proves unequal to the rge, his constituents have an opportunity to ard him at the expiration of the year.

Have they always the sagacity to discover this? nd do they so readily embrace the opportunity? w many glaring instances have we seen, ere a member, who did honour to his county, been traduced, and a particular vote pointed , to demonstrate the weakness of his head or epravity of his heart? This method is too fre- ently practised at elections with success; the s and nays are produced to prove, that the ts of the people have been violated by mea- s, the sound policy of which can be fully ced only by time.

I repeat once more, we want men of abilities; e are obliged to delegate a man, ignorant of law, except what he may have gleaned by an ndance on courts, or by reading some few s of assembly; on his coming into the house, e is utterly unacquainted with the forms of bu- ess, and the characters and views of politi- ans; in this situation, it is possible he may be mpted to submit his judgment to members of perior knowledge, and, for a time, to yield implicit obedience to their will: the experi- ce of two or three sessions enlightens his mind, nd he bids fair for becoming an useful and dis- rning member; but, at the end of the year, he whim and caprice of his constituents, or the nfair management of an antagonist, gives him a scharge, and his successor enters, with equal disadvantages, upon this most interesting and important trust. There is a sentiment in Black- tone's introduction to his commentaries, so ap- osite to the subject, that I cannot forbear tran- scribing it. "Indeed it is perfectly amazing, that there should be no other state of life, no other occupation, art, or science, in which some method of instruction is not looked upon as re- quisite, except only the science of legislation, the noblest and most difficult of any." To which I will add, that an excellent mode of obtaining instruction, in this science, is a diligent atten- dance on the house of delegates, without which, no preparatory study will form a useful member of that assembly.

Every candidate must place his account in be- coming a mark for censure and calumny; every part of his conduct will be scrutinised and mis- represented; when this is annually the case, when the increase of his feelings must be added to that of his time, it is enough to discourage a man of real worth from soliciting the confidence of the public, and, without a solicitation, there is little probability of his becoming an object of their choice.

A representative should have no motive but the welfare of his country, and the laudable ambition of an honest fame; to please, and to benefit, are by no means one and the same thing; by pleasing the people, their favour is secured; but, by serving them effectually, a man has frequently incured their highest displeasure. I speak with allusion principally to the supplies of men, and the disposition of money.

He that places a high value on his seat, and dreads the disgrace of losing that, which may be preserved by voting agreeably to the passions of a misjudging multitude, cannot possess the independence of sentiment, which is an essential quality in a legislator.

In some measure, to provide for that independance, the term should be prolonged; to whatever length it may be extended, the evil would recur on the approach of an election; but some defect there must be in every human institution; that regulation is the wisest, which is productive of the least inconvenience.

Under the former constitution, I never heard of a corrupt house of delegates; and yet it was allowed to sit three years, and the members were exposed to such temptations, as no power in this constitution can offer. They always stood firm against the insidious designs of a government, the administrators of which had interests separate from those of the people; the most respectable characters were candidates, and, when elected, their attention to the public business was so duly paid, that they left no example of ten days elapsing, after the appointed time of meeting, before a majority was convened. Three years, therefore, is a term recommended by experience, the most unanswerable argument to be adduced on this or any other subject.

I confess, the lower class of mankind are delighted by a frequent exercise of the power of election; and, I believe, their good pleasure was consulted in the institution of annual assemblies; but every discerning politician will agree, that, in matters of government, they are rarely acquainted with their true interests.

On the same erroneous principle of gratifying the people, at the expence of their real good, they are invested with the appointment of sheriffs. That the power is improperly placed, is a position too evident to be enforced by argument; I shall therefore only appeal to recent experience, to determine whether it were not better to confine the nomination of these officers to the governor and the council.

The exceptions I have taken may appear to be dictated by an affected singularity, or the vanity ambition of displaying the ingenuity of his author: if, in any degree, I have attained the difficult science of self-knowledge, I am swayed by neither of these pitiful motives; I have endeavoured to point out those defects in the constitution, which, in time, may be productive of much mischief to the commonwealth. In every place I have spoken from the fullest conviction of my own judgment; in some part I am an echo to the observations of wiser men. There are other articles in the constitution, which I conceive liable to objection; but I have always thought an intemperate zeal for the reformation of trifles to be ridiculous and absurd.

To obviate the charge of presumption and arrogance, in condemning the production of so many able patriots, I must remark, that human nature is unequal to the task of instituting, at one stroke, a complete system. Unforeseen consequences will arise; and it is the part of a wise man to obey the instruction of experience, the infallible teacher of true wisdom.

But with all the real or imaginary defects in our form of government, it merits the labour of a panegyrist; its defects may be ascribed to a servile imitation of the errors in a neighbouring state, or the injudicious adoption of some political principles, which are calculated for the meridian of Great-Britain. This conduct may be aptly compared to the blundering practice of an empiric, who administers the same nostrum to every constitution, and is possessed of an absurd notion of its infallibility, from its casual success on a single patient.

In my next paper, I shall proceed to a less invidious task, and make some propositions for the amendment of our penal law. The necessity of a revisal has been strenuously asserted in the house of delegates, and nothing, I suppose, but the urgency of affairs more immediately interesting, has delayed the undertaking; "*inter arma silent leges.*"

It is an observation of an admired writer in America, that, "could the straggling thoughts of individuals be collected, they would frequently form materials for wise and able men to improve into useful matter."

To discharge the duty of a good citizen, in contributing my pittance of rude materials, is the purpose of these papers. Far be the insufferable arrogance of supposing, that I alone, of the human species, am capable of discovering a perfect mode of government, or deviling a criminal code, which would adjust the nice proportion of crimes and punishments, and be the best calculated to secure the safety and happiness of every individual. That body of men which can do this, will deserve the gratitude of ages, and monuments should be erected to perpetuate their memories.

In my progress through life, I have aimed at an exemption from prejudice and prepossession; it is my maxim, never to renounce the charter of nature, which has indued every man with some share of reason to determine for himself. I listen, and I read with attention, and a desire of instruction; but I form my conclusions with caution. This rule I recommend to every man, and entreat him to use it in the perusal of these remarks.

A REPUBLICAN.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

NUMBER IV.

WHY is it, that the posts to the southward, have been left so unprovided for defence, as to render the success of the enemy attacking them, extremely probable? It was well known, before the conclusion of the last campaign, that it was a main object with the enemy, to take possession of two or more of the southern states. The British army, under general Prevost, had over-run a great part of Georgia, and penetrated to the capital of South Carolina. From hence, they were repulled, by the gallantry of the inhabitants, the valour of the militia of the neighbouring states, and the discipline and prowess of the continental troops. An embarkation, of four thousand men, was intended from New-York, about the beginning of October, 1779, to reinforce the troops under general Prevost, and to enable him to institute a second march to Charles-Town. The arrival of the count d'Estaing on the coast of Georgia, put a stop to this embarkation, indirectly, by rendering it necessary for them to be detained, in order to defend the main port of New-York, or by rendering it dangerous for them to put to sea, lest in their voyage, to the southward, they should fall into his hands.

The count de Grasse, by his arrival in the western seas, exciting like apprehensions in the enemy, put a stop to an embarkation of the same, or a larger body of troops from New-York, November, 1779, which were intended for the same quarter; by which, it was effected, that, not until the last of December, 1779, did the fleet set sail from the Hook; so that the winter winds, an event to be expected, falling on it in its passage, dismasted most of the shipping, stranded some on the rocks of Bermuda, drove others to the West-Indies, and threw many into our hands, and into the hands of our ally. By these means, and by this disaster, the expedition has been much delayed, and the reinforcement so weakened, the greater part of the artillery and horses having been thrown overboard, if the accounts received are just, and the troops much reduced in number, that with a small force, ill provided, and many months later than expected, have the enemy been able to appear on the destined coast, where they had hoped to have been able, with much advantage, to institute a winter campaign.

What, in the mean time, has been done by these ſtates, to reſiſt the invaſion of the enemy, about to be reinforced from New-York, and once more advancing to attack Charles-Town? Has the militia of the neighbouring ſtates of North-Carolina and Virginia been early rouſed to march to oppoſe their progreſs? Have bodies of regular troops, in theſe ſtates, been ordered there, with a rapid movement, to effect the ſame purpoſe? Have the continental troops, ordered from the main army, to that quarter, been ſent forward with all that expedition which the exigence required? On the contrary, have not the militia of the neighbouring ſtates ſlumbered through the winter? Have not many officers, and bodies of regular troops, been ſuffered to remain in the towns of the neighbouring ſtates, as if they could ſuſpect that theſe ſtates might be the ſcene of action? Have not the troops ordered from the main army lingered on our borders, and when it behoved them to have met the enemy before Charles-Town, have been only within ſome days march of it, and greatly apprehenſive, leſt this capital, the key of the ſouthern ſtates, might be under the neceſſity of capitulating before they could arrive? I do not call in queſtion the promptneſs of the militia of the ſouthern ſtates, to ſtep forth, when called upon to defend their territories. They are moved, rouſed, agitated, or compoſed, at the will of thoſe, in whom, by the conſtitutions of the reſpective governments, the power is veſted to call them forth. I do not mean to blame the continental officers, and troops, who have lingered on our borders. They are detained or ſent forward, as they have received orders, or as they are provided with neceſſaries for the march. It muſt be owing to a *deficiency of elaſtic vigour in the ſpring of our public councils*, that our operations have proceeded with ſo ſlow a ſtep, for ſome time paſt. I am not acquainted with every remora, which, unavoidably, may have been thrown in the way; but knowing that men, after high exertions, are prone to ſink into indolence, eſpecially if they falſely apprehend themſelves to have nearly attained their purpoſe, as has been the caſe with us, the preceding winter, from our hopes of peace, I think it not improbable, from the face of things, that we have not been ſo ſolicitous as we might have been, to be prepared at all points, to meet the enemy the enſuing campaign. The memory of paſt miſconduct ought to be a ſpur to redoubled diligence in a future juncture of affairs.

Let it be conſidered what may be the conſequence, if we do not repel the enemy from theſe ſouthern territories. They will continue to deſpiſe our independence, as long as they ſhall be able to retain poſſeſſion of a foot of ground upon the continent. They will boaſt, in the language of Archimedes, to remove the new world from its preſent political exiſtence, as long as they ſhall find a place whereon to fix their armies, the fulcrum and the power, by which they labour to effect it. If, by any means, they ſhould, at length, be brought to admit our independence, they will admit it only with regard to thoſe ſtates of which they do not hold poſſeſſion. This will embarraſs our negotiation, and protract the war. It will be impoſſible to deſert any ſtate, and leave it to the arms of Britain. The ſtates are bound to each other by the moſt indiſſoluble knot, and they muſt live or fall together. While Britain therefore poſſeſſes one ſtate, ſhe has, in a certain ſenſe, poſſeſſion of the whole, and before one ſtate can be independent, the whole muſt be reſcued from her graſp.

We know that, of late years, war has been uſually compoſed, in Europe, by the intermediation of other powers. Two nations, though equally weary of the conteſt, often continue it, merely from an unwillingneſs to make the firſt advances to an accommodation, leſt theſe ſhould be imputed to weakneſs; or they perſiſt in it, from animoſity, and againſt their real intereſt. Then, common friends effectually interfere, offering themſelves for mediators. An article uſually takes place, ſtipulating that both parties ſhall retain poſſeſſion of what they have acquired during the war.

For this reaſon it will be, radically and eſſentially our intereſt, that the enemy ſhall retain poſſeſſion of no part of theſe ſtates. Mediators will then have it in their power to demand, with a good face, the relinquiſhment of every claim of dominion, or juriſdiction, over them; the ground will be ſmooth, and there will be nothing to impede the courſe of a negotiation.

AN ANTI-ANGLICAN.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

MUCH ſcoff and ſcorn has been caſt on a poſition of the Senator, that a man may owe allegiance to *two* countries; and yet we hear of a ſnake in New-England (according to the account of Cotton Mather, to the royal ſociety) which had two heads, and could run two ways at a time; alſo of a negro in this ſtate (according to the account of a gentleman, to the ſame body) which was white and black, by turns; that is (not a pye-bald negro, but) one who was white, one ſeaſon of the year, and black the other. Is it more extraordinary, that a man ſhould be the ſubject of two countries and *inherit in both?*

If the advocates for confiſcation ſhould perſiſt in their burleſquery, I will undertake to prove the poſſibility of a *utriuſque fides*, that is, *allegiance*, and not as ſome would interpret it, *fealty*, to two ſovereigns, by authorities from Bracton, Britton, the author of fleta, the mirror, Glanville, and others, expreſſly in point.

PHILO-SENATOR.

Buſh-town, March 31.

To the PUBLIC.

IT has been objected, that the property of Britiſh ſubjects, in this ſtate, ought not to be confiſcated, becauſe we were once connected with the kingdom of Great-Britain. "This property, ſays the Senator, was acquired at a time when we were all fellow-ſubjects of the ſame government; the laws permitted them, at that time, to purchaſe and hold eſtates among us, and we cannot now deprive them of thoſe eſtates, without being guilty of a breach of faith."

It is a melancholy truth, that nine tenths of mankind ſcarce think at all; and even of the thinking few, by far the greater part ſuffer themſelves ſo often to be blindly hurried away by their paſſions, their prejudices, or their intereſt, that they might almoſt as well be deprived of the faculty. Never was an objection more groundleſs and frivolous adopted by the advocates of error; nor can I conceive how it is poſſible for any perſon of common reflection to deceive himſelf into the belief, that it has any weight or ſolidity. Was the property in diſpute acquired under the ſanction of the faith of *this ſtate?* So far from it, that this ſtate was not at that time in *exiſtence*. Were they entitled to purchaſe and hold lands and goods, in Maryland, by the laws and conſtitution of our *preſent* government? This conſtitution was not at that time formed; nor were theſe laws adopted. It was under the Britiſh government, that thoſe lands and thoſe goods were acquired. It was by the laws and conſtitution of Great-Britain, that their *late* owners were authoriſed to purchaſe and to hold them. While we were all ſubjects of that empire, we were prohibited from intermeddling with this property, except in ſuch manner as her laws and conſtitution permitted, and the faith of the Britiſh nation was pledged to its owners for the ſecure enjoyment of their property. This *faith* did not *only* conſiſt in giving redreſs by means of her laws, and courts of juſtice, to thoſe of her ſubjects, who might be illegally diſpoſſeſſed of their eſtates; but *alſo* required of the nation, that ſhe would not, by her public acts of government, give *juſt cauſe* to any foreign power to ſeize the goods of her ſubjects; or to one part of her ſubjects to ſeize the goods of the other. Who broke thoſe bonds by which we were connected? Great-Britain. Who cancelled that government, under which thoſe eſtates were acquired and holden, and, in conſequence, cancelled to every perſon all thoſe rights, to which they had no *other* title, but as *ſubjects of that government?* Great-Britain. Who obliged the inhabitants of Maryland to declare themſelves independent, to form a new conſtitution, and to adopt a government and laws of their own? It was Great-Britain. All theſe events, by a ſeries of injuſtice and oppreſſion, Great-Britain hath accompliſhed. She violated that *faith*, which ſhe owed to her American ſubjects; and, by that breach of faith, ſhe gave to ſuch of her *former* ſubjects, as ſeparated from her, *juſt cauſe* to ſeize the eſtates of thoſe who *elected* to remain under her dominion.

The property in diſpute was never acquired, nor were its owners ever entitled to own it, under the laws, conſtitution, or faith of *this ſtate*; and therefore by its confiſcation, neither the laws, conſtitution, or faith, of this ſtate can be violated; nor can we, as individuals, be accuſed of injuſtice, or breach of *private* faith, unleſs the opponents of confiſcation will be hardy enough to aſſert, that we were not juſtifiable in breaking off our connection with the Britiſh nation, but that we declared ourſelves independent, for the purpoſe of plundering her ſubjects. For further illuſtration of this ſubject, let us ſuppoſe the caſe of two nations *originally* ſeparate and independent, for inſtance, Great-Britain and France. A French merchant, in time of peace, takes up his reſidence in England, engages in commerce, conducts himſelf honeſtly and inoffenſively, and acquires a conſiderable ſhare of property. An Engliſhman has goods taken from him by ſome *other* ſubjects of the French nation and their king, upon requiſition being made refuſes to do juſtice. Or hoſtilities are commenced by France againſt Britain. In caſe the goods of the French merchant are ſeized upon; in the firſt, by letters of marſal for the particular injury; in the laſt, by reparation of the damages and expences of war. Should this merchant remonſtrate to the Britiſh government, that he had acquired property under the ſanction of their laws, had placed the moſt implicit truſt and confidence in their good faith, for his enjoying in ſafety, moleſtation, might not the Britiſh government with the ſtricteſt juſtice, reply, "it is true, our laws permitted you to reſide here, and acquire property among us, but thoſe *laws* as well as the law of nations, declare that property ſhall be anſwerable to us for the debts of *your nation*, and authoriſe us to ſeize it, as have done, for reparation of the injuries ſubjects ſuſtained, or for the damages and pences of the war, as the caſe might be; would avail yourſelf of the benefits of our laws one inſtance, you muſt put up with the inconveniences in the other; and remember, if you ſuffer any loſs, it proceeds from the *injuſtice* of *your nation*." I admit, ſhould Great-Britain the aggreſſor; ſhould ſhe, without juſt cauſe, begin the war againſt France, and under pretence of that war ſeize upon the property of a French merchant, this ſeizure would be unjuſt and inconſiſtent with public faith, for this reaſon, that the war being unjuſt in its commencement and proſecution, no *natural* right for the damages and expences of that war would become due from France to Britain, therefore there would not be any pretext to ſeize the property of the *ſurety*, that is to ſay, of the French merchant, for the payment of a debt which was *never due* from the *principal*, to the collective body of the French nation.

So when the property in diſpute was originally acquired, it is admitted that the laws of the Britiſh government, to which we were at one time all of us under ſubjection, authoriſed the acquiſition; but it is equally true, that not only by the law of nature, but alſo by the laws and conſtitution of that kingdom, there may be caſes where ſubjects have a right to reſiſt the oppreſſive acts of government, and, ſhould it be neceſſary for the preſervation of their liberties, may ſeparate themſelves from it, withdraw their allegiance, and form an independent ſtate; upon which event taking place, thoſe, who form themſelves into ſuch a ſtate, have an indiſputable right, not only by the law of nature and nations, but even by the expreſs principles of their very laws, under the ſanction of which the acquiſition was made, to ſeize upon the property of ſuch, who remain the ſubjects of that government, whoſe oppreſſion and injuſtice obliged them to ſeparation. If we declared ourſelves independent, without any juſtifiable neceſſity, if we ſtill the ſubjects of that nation, and, at this time, in rebellion, the ſeizure of Britiſh property would be an act of injuſtice; becauſe the fountain being corrupt, all the ſtreams, which immediately flow from it, muſt neceſſarily partake of its nature.

If it is admitted, that the war in which Great-Britain is engaged with America was cruel and unjuſt in its commencement, nor leſs ſo in its continuance; if it is admitted that our oppoſition was and yet is ſtill neceſſary; poſitions which every whig in this ſtate not only admit to be true, but have ſolemnly ſworn to ſupport; if theſe poſitions, I ſay are admitted, it follows by immediate inference, that for all the property which hath been taken from us by taxation, for all that heavy load of debt which we have contracted for the expences of this war, we are, every individual of this ſtate, injured and damaged to the amount of our reſpective ſhare and proportion of that property and that debt, to that amount as the Britiſh nation as principal with *every of its ſubjects* as *ſecurity* ſtand *indebted* to each of us; we are, one and all of us, by the conditions on which we enter into ſociety, entitled to *demand*, as an undoubted *right*, from our government, that it will, as far as it has opportunity and power, procure us, from the principal or ſecurity, the ſatisfaction of theſe damages, the payment of this debt. Whatever Britiſh property lies within this ſtate, our government has an *opportunity* to ſeize, and, as far as it will go, to apply it for that uſe, and that, if inclination is not wanting, it has *power* to do this, no perſon in his right ſenſes will attempt to deny. Should therefore the government of this ſtate refuſe to comply with this obligation, it may, with the ſtricteſt propriety, be charged with cruelty, injuſtice, inhumanity, to thoſe, whom it is bound by every tye to protect, ſupport, and defend, to its own ſubjects. Let us

…ſuſt, before we are generous. Let us firſt …ecure reparation of their damages, and pay- …ent of their debts for the ſubjects of this ſtate …m their enemies. When this ſhall be done, …ould the Senator, and thoſe of his party, be …itten with a Quixotic madneſs to eſtabliſh their …aracters for generoſity, why let them, for that …rpoſe, laviſh upon thoſe enemies as much of …eir private fortunes as they pleaſe, but let …em beware how they intermeddle with the pro- …rty and poſſeſſions of the public; of theſe they …ve no right to diſpoſe. They might, it is …ue, among thoſe, who, in defence of their …untry, have loſt their eſtates, their health, and …eir limbs, or among the helpleſs widows, and …ildren of thoſe, who have loſt their lives, find …bjects enough for the exerciſe of the moſt un- …ounded benevolence. But theſe, alas! will not …ave the merit of being *Britiſh*, nor will they be …ntitled to notice from having ſuffered in the …auſe of injuſtice and oppreſſion, or from their …onnection with, and relation to, an arbitrary, …yrannical government, which, by having …rampled under foot the rights of human nature, …s at length reduced to the very precipice of …in.

There are perſons among us, who appear as …enſible to the calamities of our country, as if …ey were made of ſtocks and of ſtones; tell …em of our fellow-citizens being inſulted and …undered; of women and children reduced from …eſe and affluence, to poverty and diſtreſs, dri- …en from their own happy abodes, without food …d without cloathing; tell them of the inhu- …an barbarities and butcheries practiſed on ſome …f our countrymen, and the ſufferings which …thers have endured in Britiſh guardſhips and …ails; they will hear you with features as un- …oved, as if they were carved out of inanimate …arble: but touch upon the ſubject of ſeizing …e property of Britiſh ſubjects, of compelling …em to pay a juſt debt, which they owe to us, …d which we have incurred for the very purpoſe …f repelling and preventing thoſe injuries, how …ddenly is the ſcene changed! Their ſtoicism …aniſhes in a moment; they are all over trem- …lingly alive, and ſeem to agonize at every pore, …hile juſtice, humanity, and generoſity, are …andied about with ſuch rapidity, that you …ould be almoſt tempted to believe they knew …o other words in our language! Accurſed be …at humanity, which can find no other objects …r its exertion, but the ſubjects of Great-Bri- …in! and may eternal infamy await thoſe, …hoſe feelings are perpetually at variance with …e intereſt of the public, and the obligations …hich they owe to their country.

AN INDEPENDENT WHIG.

Baltimore, March 30, 1780.

MARTINICO, *January* 23.

…OR fear of erring from the truth, we have …deferred hitherto giving any account of the …s the enemy ſuſtained in the bay of Fort-Roy- …. According to all the reports we have re- …ived from St. Lucia it appears, that the ſqua- …on of vice-admiral Parker has been conſidera- …ly damaged, and that two of his veſſels, which …re ſaid to be the Elizabeth and Conqueror, have …ffered much in their hulls and in their rigging. …s to the number of their killed and wounded, …oſe who ſay the leaſt make it amount to an …undred. Among the killed are two lieutenants, …e ſecond captain of the Elizabeth, and the …mmander of the conqueror, who was buried …t St. Lucia. One cannot forbear to admire the …nduct of our chef d'eſcadre, and of the cap- …ins of the Vengeur and Reſleche, who ſaved …e fleet of merchantmen, and did immenſe da- …ge to the fleet of the enemy of 16 ſail of the …e, without receiving any themſelves. This …ion may be compared to thoſe which have im- …ortaliſed our greateſt ſeamen. The Engliſh …emſelves have formed the higheſt opinion of …. de la Motte Piquet, and give him the epithet …*gallant*, which in their language comprises …l the eulogiums of true bravery.

It is reported that a packet-boat has lately ar- …ved at Barbados, in a ſhort paſſage from Eng- …nd, with an account that 16 ſail of the line …ere ſoon to ſail from France for this iſland; …at the count de Guichen had fallen in with an …nglish ſquadron, admiral Rodney, and his con- …y for the Weſt Indies, had beat the admiral, …d taken or drove on ſhore moſt of the merchant- …en; and that an Engliſh fleet, bound with ſtores …r Gibraltar, had fallen in with the Spaniſh ad- …iral Don Barcelo, who guarded the entrance of …e Streights, who obliged the men of war to …e, and captured the whole convoy. We wait, …owever, for a confirmation of this good news.

Feb. 3. The Engliſh ſquadron under the or- …rs of admiral Parker cruizes in two diviſions, …e to the north, the other to the ſouth of this …and. Laſt Sunday we ſaw eight Engliſh ſhips of the line; at two o'clock the neareſt of them tacked and chaſed a brigantine that was coming into our road. After exchanging ſome ſhot with our batteries, without any effect on either ſide, the brigantine was captured by the Engliſh man of war. Her crew got ſafe on ſhore, and inform that ſhe was a prize of M. de la Motte Piquet, laden with fiſh. The ſame evening this diviſion of the enemy paſſed before our road, and the next morning they were out of ſight.

The firſt inſtant arrived here a veſſel from Marſeilles, which left that place on the 8th of November. Before ſhe paſſed the Streights mouth, ſhe was ſtopped by the Spaniſh ſquadron for two days. The captain was informed, that the ſiege of Gibraltar was carried on with vigour; and that the Engliſh fire upon the Spaniards was without effect; he likewiſe was told, that three ſhips of the count d'Eſtaing's ſquadron were arrived at Cadiz; that Don Barcelo had intercepted an Engliſh fleet of ſtore ſhips, of 42 ſail, with ſuccours for the garriſon, and that not one eſcaped, except a ſingle frigate, which convoyed the fleet, and through all the fire of the Spaniards got ſafe into Gibraltar.

BOSTON, *March* 9.

By captain Somes who arrived here laſt Saturday in 26 days from Martinico, we learn, that a veſſel arrived there before he ſailed from the Streights which ſhe left about the 12th of December, and brought an account that the Spaniards were daily advancing on the attack of Gibraltar, and that a flying ſquadron of our Spaniſh allies came across a fleet of 42 ſail of Britiſh tranſports with proviſions, under convoy of a frigate, bound from England for Gibraltar, and that the whole fleet, except the convoy, were taken.

March 13. Laſt Thurſday, captain Bartlett, in a letter of marque brig from Cadiz, arrived here after a paſſage of ninety days.—He informs, that about four weeks ago he fell in with and took a brig, from New-York, bound to the Weſt-Indies, which may be hourly expected.

The ſloop Right Hand, Gabriel Siſter maſter, belonging to Joſeph Packwood of New London, lately arrived at Portſmouth; the maſter ſays he ſailed from Point Peter, Guadaloupe, on the 14th of January, in company with the brig Ranger, captain Howard, for New-London, and the ſloop Maria, captain Dodge, for this port; on his paſſage he met with very hard gales from the northward and weſtward, which obliged him to keep ſo far to the eaſtward, and having ſprung his main boom, was very glad to get into the firſt port.

Tueſday laſt arrived here, a flag from Bermudas, which brought all the priſoners belonging to theſe ſtates, amounting to upwards of 30. By this conveyance we learn, that one of Goodrich's cruiſers had met at ſea, in diſtreſs, a large ſtoreſhip, one of the fleet that ſailed from New-York, which had on board one quarter part of the cannon, powder, and ordinance ſtores belonging to this whole embarkation, and 82 officers and ſoldiers, of the artillery. The ſhip was diſmaſted and otherwiſe ſo ſhattered in the ſtorm that overtook admiral Arbuthnot and his fleet ſoon after they left New-York, that there was no hope of her reaching any port. Goodrich's veſſel accordingly took out the men, and carried them to Bermudas; the ſhip was ſet on fire and blew up. Theſe men, thus ſaved from deſtruction gave the ſame account at Bermudas that we had from the officers brought into this port ſome time paſt, by the Blaze Caſtle; that admiral Arbuthnot's fleet were totally diſperſed, in the uncommon ſevere gales they met with; that probably many of them have periſhed; of the 1500 horſe embarked at New-York, and all carried upon deck, not one is ſuppoſed to be ſaved. It was conjectured that many of them might have made Bermudas, but none had arrived there the beginning of February; nor have we any account of their arrival in any port, though they left Sandy-Hook on the 26th of December. Should all the damage be done to this fleet of the enemy, conſiſting, according to their own account, of 10,000 of their beſt men, with proportionable ſtores, and all the loſs be ſuſtained by them, which there is now the ſtrongeſt reaſon to believe, the blow muſt be great indeed, and beyond any they have received during the war, except the capitulation of Burgoyne and his whole army. However this may be, it is now not to be doubted that this fleet has been torn and ſcattered in ſuch a manner, as to render the collection of it in ſeaſon, and ſo as to anſwer the purpoſe of this grand embarkation, abſolutely impracticable. All accounts agree that the tranſports had not more, in general, than 14 days proviſion; a terrible circumſtance in the ſituation to which moſt, if not all of them, muſt have been reduced. The winter has been uncommonly ſevere at Bermudas.

PHILADELPHIA, *March* 21.

Saturday laſt the honourable general aſſembly of this commonwealth, adjourned till the 10th day of May next.

By advices from South-Carolina we learn, that on the 4th inſtant Clinton with his army was on James Iſland and at Stono Ferry; that the enemy on their paſſage from New-York, loſt all their cavalry; that they alſo acknowledge the loſs of the Defiance, a 64 gun ſhip, which foundered at ſea, and of three tranſports, the men of which and of the 64 are pretended to have been ſaved, and of one tranſport with Heſſian troops, of which no accounts had been received.

By a gentleman arrived in this city we learn, the account under Boſton head, of March 9th, reſpecting the Britiſh convoy bound to Gibraltar being taken by the Spaniards, is to be depended on; for that he ſaw 27 of the tranſports in Cadiz Bay before he left that, in November laſt, as alſo a great number of the troops.

In CONGRESS, March 10, 1780.

Reſolved, That no allowance of pay or rations or ſubſiſtance ought to be made to any perſon after he ceaſes to be in office:

That if any iſſuer deliver out public ſtores to ſuch perſons, without being authoriſed by reſolution of congreſs, the ſame ought to be charged to his account.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.

The reſpective deputies and aſſiſtants in the iſſuing department, are hereby directed to pay ſtrict attention to the above reſolve.

The printers in the different ſtates are deſired to publiſh the above.

CHARLES STEWART,
Commiſſary general of iſſues.

LAWS of MARYLAND, paſſed November ſeſſion, 1779, may be had at the printing-office.

Somerſet county, April 4, 1780.

NOTICE is hereby given, that I intend to petition the next general aſſembly, for a road to lead from the main road leading from Princeſs-Anne to the lower ferry, to the plantation whereon David Megrath formerly lived and now in the poſſeſſion of [illegible]

1 8w MARY WAGGAMAN.

O V I D,

A beautiful, high formed well bred horſe, ſixteen hands high, raiſed by William Fitzhugh, Eſq; (of Marmion) and from whom he was lately purchaſed,

STANDS this ſeaſon at my plantation near Piccawagon church, and will cover mares at one hundred pounds the ſeaſon, if paid by the firſt of Auguſt, if not 300lb. tobacco muſt be paid in lieu thereof by the firſt of January. Ovid was got by Ariſtotle, as high a bred horſe as any in America, his dam by colonel Tasker's old Othello, his grand dam by the famed and high bred imported horſe Monkey, well known for his activity and goodneſs on the turf, his great grand dam by the late ſecretary Carter's imported horſe Pompy. I have good paſturage gratis for thoſe who live at a diſtance, and great care ſhall be taken of all mares left, but will not be anſwerable for eſcapes or other accidents.

1 3w WILLIAM COURTS.

Caroline county, Maryland, March 22, 1780.

THIS day was committed to my cuſtody a negro man named BEN; he formerly belonged to a certain Philip Wilſon, of Philadelphia. His preſent maſter is deſired to come, pay charges, and take him away.

1 [illegible] HENRY DOWNES, ſheriff.

NOTICE is hereby given, that by an act of aſſembly made and paſſed at a ſeſſion of aſſembly of the ſtate of Maryland, begun and held at the city of Annapolis, on the 8th day of November, 1779, the bills of credit, dated January 1, 1767, emitted and made current by an act of aſſembly, paſſed November ſeſſion, 1766, are directed to be brought in and depoſited with the weſtern ſhore treaſurer, on or before the firſt of June next, or thereafter irredeemable; for which the holders of ſaid bills of credit may, at their option, receive either bills of exchange drawn on the truſtees of ſaid ſtate at London, or ſtate loan-office certificates, bearing an annual intereſt of ſix per cent. But if the bills of exchange, or any of them, to be drawn in virtue of ſaid act, ſhall not be paid, the ſame ſhall be renewable, but neither the drawer, or any endorſer thereof, ſhall be anſwerable for, or liable to pay, any damages thereon, other than the charges of proteſt. 6

N. B. The printers in the adjacent ſtates are requeſted to inſert the above in their reſpective papers.

Annapolis, March 30, 1780.

THE COMMITTEE of GRIEVANCES and COURTS of JUSTICE will sit to do business in the committee room, every day, from eleven in the forenoon till four in the afternoon, during the present session of the general assembly.

Signed by order of the committee,
A. GOLDER, clk. com.

WILDAIR

STANDS this season at the head of West river, and will cover mares at three hundred dollars each, and ten dollars to the groom. The money to be paid before the horse is led out of the stable. He is a dark bay, upwards of fifteen hands and an half high, he was got by Mr. Delancey's imported horse Wildair, his dam by Ariel, his grandam by Othello, his great grandam a barb, his sire was got by Old Cade, his grand sire by the Godolphin Arabian.

N. B. Pasturage at ten dollars a week, but I will not be answerable for any that may be lost.

tf 2 JOHN JOHNS.

BADGER

COVERS at Mr. Ogle's plantation, near Annapolis, at two hundred pounds the season and eight dollars the groom. He is full fifteen hands one inch high, a dark gray, and allowed by judges to be a fine horse. He was got by governor Eden's Badger, his dam by Samuel Galloway, Esquire's Selim, his grandam (an imported mare) by Spot, his great grandam by Cartouche, his great great grandam by Old Traveller, his great great great grandam by Sedbury, his great great great great grandam by Childers, out of a barb mare.

Governor Eden's Badger was got by lord Chedworth's Bosphorus, who won seven king's plates, his dam by Othello, commonly called Black and all Black, who beat lord March's Bajazet over the Curragh of Kildare, his grandam by the duke of Devonshire's Flying Childers. Badger won the fifty at Guilford, and got lamed at Epsom, the only times he started.

Good pasturage for mares at five pounds a week, but I will not be answerable for any that may be lost.

No mare will be received, unless the money is sent with her.

6w 2 G. WATKINS.

A PETITION will be offered to the first session of the general assembly after this notice shall have been published eight weeks, for an act to empower the subscriber (now a minor) to make a good and sufficient deed of conveyance, for certain tracts of land lying in Charles county, which he inclines to make sale of.

3w HARRISON MUSGRAVE.

HARPSICORDS, SPINETS, and PIANO FORTES, repaired and put in tune, by ARCHIBALD CHISHOLM, in Annapolis.

He agrees either by the year, or so much per time, to keep any of the above instruments in good order. 3 X 3w

---

Calvert county, March 8, 1780.

COMMITTED to my custody as a runaway, a negro woman named Monica, appears to be about eighteen years of age, five feet five inches high, who says she belongs to James Perry, of Montgomery county. Her master is desired to take her away, and pay charges to

3w 2 GEORGE GREY, sheriff.

FIFTY POUNDS REWARD.

Head of Severn, Jan. 17, 1780.

STOLEN from the subscriber, on Thursday morning the 13th instant, a coat, jacket and breeches, a pair of mittens, a cord, an ax, some powder in an osnabrig bag, and shot in a leather one. They were stolen by one PATRICK RILEY, an Irishman, about 5 feet 10 inches high, has yellow hair, a dark brown country cloth coat and breeches, and a whitish jacket, the breeches have a hole torn in the thigh; he has a cast in his eyes, a full red face, and very large limbs. He has a pass, which mentions his having had one from the governor of Virginia, which he lost, and that he is a deserter from the British army; he had with him a white bitch, with yellow spots, short ears and tail. Whoever will secure the said Riley so that he be brought to justice, shall receive one hundred dollars if taken in the county, and if out of the county the above reward, paid by

10w 7 JOHN M'COY.

CAMBRIDGE RACES,

TO be run for, on the 15th day of May next, over the course at Cambridge, the four mile heats, a purse of seven hundred and fifty pounds, free for any horse, mare, or gelding, on the terms below.

On the day following will be run for over the same course, three mile heats, a purse of three hundred and seventy-five pounds, free for any horse, mare, or gelding, on the same terms.

And on the the third day will be run for, over the same course, a purse of two hundred and fifty pounds, free for any horse, mare, or gelding, on the same terms as the first and second day's race.

Any horse, mare, or gelding, winning two clear heats either day, to be entitled to the purse, the winning horse each preceding day to be excepted. Any horse that starts for either purse to be entered with Mr. Richard Bryan, the day before the day of running, otherwise to pay double entrance at the post. Proper certificates of their age and blood will be required. Non-subscribers to pay 80 dollars the first day, the second day 40 dollars, and the third day 30 dollars. Subscribers to pay half entrance, each day. Proper judges will be appointed to determine all matters of dispute agreeable to the rules of racing. Horses to start each day precisely at 12 o'clock.

3 X

	aged	6 years	5 years	4 years
full blood	140	133	126	119
¾ ditto	133	126	119	112
½ ditto	126	119	112	105
¼ ditto	119	112	105	98
⅛ ditto	112	105	98	91
1/16 ditto	105	98	91	84
1/32 ditto	98	91	84	77
1/64 ditto	91	84	77	70

STOLEN out of the stable of the subscriber, at his quarter near the city of Annapolis, on the night of the twentieth day of February last, a chesnut sorrel MARE, about thirteen hands three inches high, eight or nine years old this spring, flaxen mane and tail, one hind foot white, branded on the near buttock C D, paces and gallops, and carries her head when rode very low. Any person who will give information, or secure the said mare so that the owner may have her again, shall receive one hundred dollars, and if brought home one hundred and fifty dollars, and any person securing the thief, so as he may be brought to justice, shall receive a reward of one hundred dollars, paid by

tf 3 WILLIAM WATSON.

TAKEN up some time in January last, between the Bodkin and Mountain bars, three Hogsheads of tobacco, the hogsheads almost without heading, and part of the tobacco lost. The owner, upon proving property and paying all charges, may have the tobacco by applying to John Tradgall, on the Seven Mountains, near the mouth of Magothy. Also at same time and near the same place, were taken up, two hogsheads, much hurt, and a great part of the tobacco lost. The owner, upon proving property as above, may have the tobacco by applying to William Trowell, near the Bodkin 3 3 w

---

At Whitehall, on the north side of Severn,

YOUNG TRAVELLER will cover 2 mares this season, at two guineas each, to be paid before covering, or as much continental currency as will at the time purchase two guineas; eight dollars to the groom. He is a bright bay horse, fifteen hands high, was got by colonel Lloyd's Traveller, which was got by Morton's Traveller, whose dam was called Jenny Cameron, imported by colonel Taylor into Virginia. Young Traveller's dam was got by Gorge's Juniper, his grand dam by Morton's Traveller, and his great grand dam by the Godolphin Arabian.

Good pasturage for mares, at six dollars a week, but I will not be answerable for any that may be lost.

tf 3 WILLIAM YELDELL.

A PETITION will be offered to the first session of the general assembly after this notice shall have been published eight weeks, for an act admitting to record and giving effect from the date to a deed executed in Prince-George's county, by Mary Athey to John Webster, for part of a tract of land called Athey's Choice.

6w JOHN WEBSTER.

CASH given for clean Linen and Cotton RAGS. 12

THE horse SWEEPER, which stood the last year at Belair, in Prince-George's county, will be there again this season, from the 30th day of April till the 3d day of July, and will cover at two guineas each mare, and eight dollars continental currency to the groom; the money to be paid before the horse be led out of the stable, and if it should not suit all the persons who may bring mares to pay the guineas, such continental currency as will at the time of purchase them will be taken in lieu thereof. Sweeper is fifteen hands two inches and a half high, was got by Dr. Hamilton's Figure; his dam was got by Othello, which was bred by colonel Tasker, his grand dam by Morton's Traveller, and his great grand dam was colonel Tasker's Selima, got by the Godolphin Arabian.

There will be good pasturage (well fenced) for mares, at six dollars a week, but I will not be answerable for any that may be lost.

tf 3 JOHN CRAGGS.

Office for stating and settling the public accounts,

Annapolis, February 15, 1780.

THE commissioners having desired the Office for stating and settling the public accounts to be printed in the Maryland Gazette, think it necessary to give further notice, that they intend to continue sitting every day in the said office, Sundays excepted.

And as there appear many large sums due from the public for money advanced upon contracts (and for other purposes) which have been in many instances disregarded, the commissioners take this method to inform all persons concerned that they are determined to pursue the directions of the legislature, as far as in their power; that they shall require a specific compliance with every public contract, as far as it is possible and equitable, and as they wish to prevent every unnecessary expence and delay, so they hope those who are interested will see the propriety and absolute necessity there is for them to render their accounts, and make satisfaction to the public as speedily as possible. Those clerks of counties who have omitted to transmit lists of ordinary licences and fines, since the year 1775, are requested to forward them; the sheriffs indebted on those or any other accounts to perfect the payments; the supervisors of roads, who have had money advanced from the year 1774; the committees of the counties, and in general all persons who have public money or effects not accounted for, will be pleased to take notice and comply with the requisitions of the legislature.

Signed per order of the commissioners,
4 THO. GASSAWAY, clerk.

WHEREAS, colonel Edward Sprigg, late of Prince-George's county, deceased, by his last will and testament, directed his executrix to sell and dispose of part of a tract of land, lying in Frederick county, called, Addition to Piles's Delight, before the first day of June after his decease, for the payment of his debts; and whereas his executrix, through sickness and inability of body, could not attend to and make sale thereof by the time limited in the said will; she hereby gives this public notice, that after a continuance of this advertisement eight weeks in the public papers, she intends to petition the general assembly for an act empowering her now to dispose of the said land, in order to enable her to make a final settlement of the estate of the said testator.

8w 5 MARY PINDELL, executrix.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

January 6, 1780.

RAN away from the subscriber's plantation, about seven miles from Annapolis, on the main road leading from thence to Baltimore, on Monday the 21st day of December last, a likely young NEGRO man, named TOM, about five feet eight inches high, a stout well set fellow, with thick lips, and his legs rather large: had on when he went away, a light coloured country made cloth jacket, with a red short waistcoat under it, a pair of light coloured country cloth breeches, and also took with him a pair of leather breeches, dark coloured yarn stockings, and two pair of shoes. It is apprehended that he may have endeavoured to get over into Virginia, from whence he was brought when a little boy and was then the property of John Mercer Jordan, Esq; deceased. Whoever will apprehend the said negro, and bring him to the subscriber, shall receive the above reward if taken in Maryland, and if out of Maryland a further reward of one hundred dollars, besides all reasonable charges, paid by

9 ELIZABETH SCOTT.

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by FREDERICK and SAMUEL GREEN, at the Post-Office in Church-Street.